

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /061 W

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R 071505Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4583

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA

SUBJ: SOUTHERN AFRICA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 7

SUMMARY: KILLING OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND NUN IN RHODESIA; RICHARD'S RETURN TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATION; AND ZIPA'S CLAIM THAT ITS FORCES HAVE KILLED 1,256 RHODESIAN SOLDIERS FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 1976 ARE FEATURED IN DAILY PRESS. DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL BLAMES SMITH FOR KILLING OF THREE CHURCHMEN, SINCE HE REFUSES TO ACCEPT A PEACEFUL TRANSFERRAL OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

1. DENIALS BY MUGABE AND NKOMO THAT THEIR FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING OF THREE CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES WERE GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION IN BOTH DAILIES. MUGABE IS DESCRIBED AS SHAKEN BY THE KILLINGS, AND NKOMO IS QUOTED AS LAYING THE BLAME AT THE FEET OF SMITH WHO IS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

2. MAIL AND TIMES FEATURED RICHARD'S RETURN TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATION AFTER HIS MEETING ON MONDAY WITH NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS AN UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTEMPT TO GET MOVEMENT IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

STORIES NOTE SPECULATION THAT RICHARD MUST BE CONSIDERING  
A SHORT ADJOURNMENT OF THE TALKS IF AGREEMENT IS NOT  
REACHED BY DEC 20.

3. PAPERS CARRY ZIPA'S CLAIM THAT ITS FORCES HAVE KILLED  
1,256 RHODESIAN SOLDIERS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE  
YEAR WITHOUT COMMENT.

4. DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL CONTRASTS THE LACK OF CONCERN  
FOR THE KILLING OF BLACKS BY RHODESIAN FORCES WITH THE  
OUTCRY OVER THE SLAYING OF THREE WHITE MISSIONARIES.  
"MURDERS ARE HORRIBLE DEEDS WHICH MUST BE CONDEMNED BY  
ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE. SENSELESS KILLING OF THREE WHITE  
MISSIONARIES MUST BE CONDEMNED AND SO SHOULD THE  
HUNDREDS OF MURDERS CARRIED OUT BY THE ZELOUS SCOUTS OF  
THE REBEL ARMY." EDITORIAL PLACES THE BLAME ON SMITH  
FOR ALL THE KILLINGS WHICH OCCUR, SINCE "AT EVEN THIS  
LATE HOUR HE REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF  
POWER." LOW

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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